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1 September 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: First Meeting of Interagency Working Group on Information Management

FROM: [REDACTED]

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1. Deputy Director ICA Gil Robinson called a meeting to follow up on Charlie Wick's presentation to the President on information policy coordination. The briefing on information management resulted in approval by the NSC in a centralized role for ICA. According to Robinson the implementation of this basic tasking would be handled at the working level by a coordinating group which he would chair. This group would focus on worldwide information programs and particularly highlight Soviet disinformation. Robinson was particularly concerned to be sure that we orchestrate the USG's effort to assure maximum play of key policy themes.

2. A significant portion of the meeting was devoted to the developing major policy initiatives vis a vis Western Europe. Richard Perle, DOD, briefed the group on the DOD white paper which will provide a comprehensive analysis of Soviet military positions. This paper will be submitted incrementally to NATO Ministers of Defense, military correspondents in Europe, US press and other concerned opinion molders. In general, Bob Schweitzer, NSC, expressed his serious concern that this paper be coordinated with the principal agencies before release. Perle was clearly reluctant to upset the carefully crafted DOD timetable but, under pressure, agreed to make available copies of the paper to the concerned agencies this afternoon. For what it is worth, in a side comment to me, Gen. Schweitzer said that there are "big problems . . . it is replete with brutal cold war rhetoric, lacks sophistication and contains an inaccurate treatment of Soviets and Soviet history." (N.B. NFAC has cleared on the factual portion and declassification.)

OSD Review Completed

3. The timing of the surfacing of this major DOD paper is set for 17 September at a SecDef press conference. It will receive simultaneous release selectively in Europe. The SecDef press conference will have been preceded by a circulation of the paper to NATO Ministers of Defense. ICA will work closely with State to insure maximum publicity.

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NSC review completed.

State Dept. review completed.

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5. After our discussion on the DOD paper, Mark Palmer (State) noted that the Weinberger presentation fitted into a total effort. It would be preceded by a speech by Sec. Raig in Berlin on 13 September.

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6. Robert McFarlane (State), hailed the development of this working group as a significant step forward. He also identified the DOD paper as a first and most significant piece of the Reagan campaign to deal with major security and defense issues. John Hughes (ICA, Program Director) noted the need to link our overall efforts with the Gene Rostow initiatives in the field of arms reduction. Mark Palmer noted the need to provide these materials (discussed above) to a worldwide audience. Jim Conklyn (Director, VOA) and Bill Vartunian (Deputy Director, VOA) noted the need to also get the message to Soviet target areas. Carnes Lord (NSC) stressed the need for monitoring what the Soviets are saying and developing a comprehensive strategy to counter what the Soviets are saying, particularly on military issues and arms control. I indicated that we could pursue this subject more actively and I would like FBIS to participate.

7. Gil Robinson noted that this general effort of the working group had a title: "Project Truth". He indicated that this was a good start-up meeting and that some of the issues which were noted would serve as the basis for subsequent discussions. Robinson anticipates holding meetings probably every two weeks.

8. I could identify the following people present: ICA: Robinson, Shirley, Hughes, Malone; VOA: Conklyn, Vartunian; State: McFarlane, Palmer; Defense: Perle, Zakheim; NSC: Schweitzer, Lord, Kramer;

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